

CLAIMS

1. An internet application for providing data on receipt of requests from user terminals over a distributed information network, having means arranged to identify
5 whether a plurality of addresses making requests for the same data are associated with the same end user, and where this is the case splitting the requested data, and streaming different parts of the data to the different addresses requesting it.
2. An internet application according to claim 1, comprising means for identifying
10 correlation codes associated with data requests, means for associating each such data request with any previous requests for the same data having the same correlation code, and means for splitting the requested data between the addresses associated with the data requests
- 15 3. An internet application according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising means for identifying the data rates available to each of the requesting addresses and apportioning the data between the addresses accordingly.
4. A user terminal for accessing data from an internet application over a
20 distributed information network, provided with means for generating a plurality of access requests for the same data to be delivered by the internet application over a plurality of routes, each request conveying an indication of their common origin to the targeted internet application, and means for receiving the requested data and to assemble the data sent over the plurality of routes into a single stream for access by
25 the user.
5. A user terminal according to claim 4, comprising means for generating a first access request having a correlation code indicative of its origin, means for determining whether the data rate of the data received in response to the first
30 request meets a predetermined level, and means to generate one or more further requests over different routes using the same correlation code.

6. A user terminal according to claim 4 or 5, comprising means for buffering the incoming data to allow its reassembly in a manner prescribed by the data content.

7. A method of accessing data from an internet application over a distributed information network, wherein a user terminal generates a plurality of access requests for the same data to be delivered by the internet application over a plurality of routes, each request conveying an indication of their common origin to the targeted internet application, the internet application identifies whether a plurality of addresses making requests for the same data are associated with the same end user, and where this is the case splitting the requested data and streaming different parts of the data to the different addresses requesting it, and the user terminal receives the requested data over the plurality of routes and assembles it into a single stream.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the user terminal generates an initial access request with a correlation code indicative of its origin and the internet application stores the correlation code, and if the user terminal determines that the data received in response to the initial request does not meet a predetermined data rate, it transmits one or more further requests using the same correlation code, the internet application identifying such requests as being associated with the same end user.

9. A method according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the internet application identifies the data rates available on the connection to each of the requesting addresses and apportions the data to be transmitted to each of the addresses accordingly.

10. A method according to claim 7, 8 or 9, wherein the incoming data contains information to allow the user terminal to reassemble it, and the user terminal buffers the information to allow its reassembly accordingly.